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82d Congress, 2d Session } SENATE { Report No. 1351

PROVIDING FUNDS FOR A STUDY OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACT AND RELATED PROBLEMS

March 26 (legislative day, March 24), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Hayden, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Con. Res. 56]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) providing funds for a study of the Railroad Retirement Act and related problems, having considered the same report favorably thereon without an additional amendment and recommend that it be agreed to by the Senate.

Under the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 51, Eighty-second Congress, first session, a joint congressional committee was authorized and directed to make a full and complete study and investigation of the cost of the present benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act, the cost of proposed changes in the act, and the relationships between that act and the Social Security Act. The need for such a study was clearly indicated by the congressional hearings on the recent amendments to the Railroad Retirement Act (Public Law 234, 82d Cong., 1st sess.), which disclosed a lack of conclusive evidence concerning several important aspects of our railroad retirement program, and which should be carefully examined before further changes are made in the act.

The joint committee, accordingly proposes to devote its attention to the following problems:

I. The cost of current benefits, and the determination of whether or not they can be safely sustained, or increased, by present financing provisions.

II. Consideration of various proposals to increase present benefits, to relax eligibility requirements, to remove outside earning restrictions, to eliminate alleged inequities, and to simplify and clarify the provisions of the act, including—

(1) Retirement on full annuity (for men) at age 60.

(2) Retirement on full annuity (for men) at age 60, after 30 years of service.

(3) Retirement after 30 years of service, regardless of age.

(4) Retirement on full annuity (for men) at age 62.

(5) Compulsory retirement at age 70, after 30 years of service.

(6) Compute monthly compensation, in certain cases, on the basis of 5 years of highest earnings.

(7) Percentage increases in all benefits.

(8) Dispose of proof of disability after age 60.

(9) Eliminate outside earnings restriction upon disabled annuitants.

(10) Widow's annuity regardless of age.

(11) Spouse's annuity regardless of age.

(12) Remove restriction upon outside earnings of survivors.

(13) Provide minimum annuity, at age 60 after 30 years' service, equal to one-half average monthly compensation for 5 highest years, but annuity not to exceed $150 per month (also without ceiling).

(14) Eliminate restriction on dual benefits for service prior to 1937.

(15) Remove restriction on dual benefits for (1) survivors and (2) spouses.

(16) Remove restriction upon "last person" service.

(17) Refund difference in railroad retirement and social-security taxes to employees having less than 10 years of railroad service.

III. Proposals to provide additional revenues or savings to the retirement fund without increasing tax rates, including—

(1) Tax base increase.

(2) Work clause restrictions.

IV. The integration of the railroad retirement system and the old-age and survivors insurance system, or any changes which should be made in the present relationships of the two systems.

V. The administration of the act by the Railroad Retirement Board.

Under this concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) the Joint Committee on Railroad Retirement Legislation is authorized to expend not to exceed $50,000, one-half of such expenses to be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate and one-half from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives upon vouchers signed by the chairman.

A proposed budget for the Joint Committee on Railroad Retirement Legislation is herewith set forth:

Joint Committee on Railroad Retirement proposed budget, 1952

Personnel:	
Staff Director	$9, 705
Staff member	9, 705
Staff assistant	5, 420
Stenographers, 3, at $4,000	12, 000
Total	38, 076
Hearings: Reporting services and other expenses	2, 800
Actuarial study: Actuaries, 2, at $100 per diem (36)	7, 200
Miscellaneous: Transportation and per diem, telephone, telegraph, publications, supplies, etc	3, 170
Total expenses	50, 000

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